

THE COFFEE RUN

Written by

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January 30, 2026

Logline: An ambitious and overly-confident set PA goes on a coffee run, but when he accidentally stumbles on an alleyway crime scene, his attempt to save someone's life might come at the expense of his first big break in Hollywood.

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EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

A handful of coffees held in someone's hands walking down the street. We PAN UP to LUKE (23, solely self-assured) striding in his walk, talking to the camera.

LUKE  
Scorsese, Spielberg, Tarantino,  
what do they all have in common?

The camera WHIPS AROUND to TOMMY (23, content and mellow in comparison).

TOMMY  
Other than multiple awards and  
millions of dollars? Hehe.

LUKE (O.S.)  
The coffee run.

Tommy WHIPS the camera back to Luke.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
They all did the coffee run.

TOMMY (O.S)  
Did they or is that just a guess?

Luke gives a somewhat demeaning "Are you for real?" look to Tommy.

LUKE  
Of course they did. That's where it  
starts for every big-time director.  
Hence...

Luke gestures at himself holding the coffees. As he walks past an alley, a STRANGE MAN looks left and right suspiciously and opens the trunk of his car. Luke quickly side-eyes this but continues on, unfazed.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
After this, I'm an assistant  
director, writing my script on the  
side, and by 2035 I'll be walking  
the red carpet with a gold trophy  
in hand.

INT. LUKE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Luke sits inside his car, putting the coffees down. His phone RINGS. Tommy SETS THE CAMERA DOWN on the dash.

LUKE  
 (on the phone)  
 Hey Freddy what's up?

LUKE (CONT'D)  
 Freddy, Bud, I got them yeah. Oh...  
 straws?

He looks at Tommy like: *Shit, there's no straws.*

LUKE (CONT'D)  
 Yup I got them, Fredman. Yes I  
 remember Becky's five minute speech  
 on why she needed to drink her  
 sugar-free...

He trails off looking at Tommy like: *Shit, it isn't sugar  
 free.*

LUKE (CONT'D)  
 ...sugar free caramel latte with a  
 straw. "Stained teeth", I know.  
 Okay Buddy, bye.

He hangs up the phone.

EXT. SIDEWALK - MOMENTS LATER

Luke speed walks back to the coffee shop. Walking past the  
 alley again, a large black bag is barely visible on the  
 ground. Luke sees it, and retraces his steps. He looks at the  
 bag, and then at the camera.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Luke is looking down at the bag.

LUKE  
 What if it's cash?

The camera PANS DOWN to the black bag between Luke and Tommy.  
 It is obviously shaped like a body.

TOMMY (O.S.)  
 Could be.

Luke slowly kneels down to the bag when his phone RINGS.

LUKE  
 (On the phone)  
 Heyo! What's up?

He sits criss-cross on the floor. The voice on the phone is loud, but muffled.

FREDDY (O.S.)  
Once you get back here with the  
coffees, and the straws --

LUKE  
And the straws --

FREDDY (O.S.)  
We're gonna need you to make  
another run for batteries.

The voice on the phone continues. Tommy HANDS LUKE THE CAMERA. Tommy, kneeling by the bag, gestures to Luke: *Should I open it?*

LUKE (O.S.)  
For sure, Fredstir. Yup, we'll be  
back in 15 max.

Tommy starts unzipping the bag.

FREDDY (O.S.)  
Good. The sooner the better, Leo.

LUKE (O.S.)  
It's Luke, actually.

The phone hangs up. Tommy finishes unzipping the bag, revealing the sight of a hand. Tommy looks up, stunned. The hand moves.

TOMMY  
JESUS--

LUKE (O.S.)  
OH MY GOD, OH MY GOD.

Holding the camera, Luke starts to run off.

LUKE (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
OH MY GO--

EXT. ALLEYWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Luke is pacing around the body, as Tommy, holding the camera, investigates the bag, frantically .

LUKE

This is crazy, this is... wow. Bet this did *not* happen on Christopher Nolan's coffee run. Man, what do we do? I need to get back to set.

TOMMY (O.S.)

We need to call 9-1-1!

LUKE

Okay wait, yeah, you're right.

Luke dials on his phone.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Hey Freddy, bit of a delay.

TOMMY (O.S)

DUDE!

LUKE

Wait hold on Freddy. I can't hear you. What?

Luke puts the phone on speaker phone. He walks further down the alley.

FREDDY (O.S.)

Janice is freaking out because our lead actress didn't tell us she got a hair cut yesterday. YESTERDAY.

Tommy pulls a note out of the bag it reads: "DANIEL: As you asked". The camera WHIPS back over to Luke, who hasn't noticed at all.

TOMMY (O.S.)

Oh my God, oh my God. Luke!

FREDDY (O.S.)

We're already on track to be thirty minutes behind, and *now* we need you to get Gretchen a wig. So, Liam --

LUKE

Luke --

Tommy finds another note on the back. It reads: "He'll meet you for the exchange. \$\$\$"

FREDDY (O.S.)

You need to be back in five minutes. Or you're fired.

TOMMY (O.S.)  
 Luke you have to come see this!

The phone hangs up. Across the alley, Luke dials another number. Tommy's phone RINGS.

LUKE  
 (on the phone)  
 This is bad.

TOMMY (O.S.)  
 WHAT DO WE DO?

LUKE  
 I say we make a run for it.

TOMMY (O.S.)  
 This is the MIDDLE of a crime! This person was kidnapped, we have to do something quick.

LUKE  
 Shit- wow. Wait! 9-1-1 right? Bro, record me calling. This coffee run's gonna go down in history for two reasons now cause I'm gonna save this guy. Okay I'll dial and you...

A SHADY GUY starts approaching Luke.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
 This guy totally looks like he knows someone important. Everyone in Burbank knows someone important.

In the distance Luke starts yapping with Shady Guy. Tommy hangs up with Luke, and dials 9-1-1.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Luke and Shady Guy are walking and talking, visible around the corner of a dumpster. Hiding, Tommy texts Luke.

[NOTE: Text messages are in italics.]

TOMMY  
*He thinks you're someone else.  
 He's here for the guy.*

Luke, mid-talk with Shady Guy, reads his phone. He looks at Shady Guy. His jaw literally drops.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

*You have to stall.  
Act normal.*

Luke closes his jaw and slumps his posture.

LUKE

Yeah so you wanted the guy right?

SHADY GUY

I got the money for you right here.

LUKE

Shall we count it?

Shady Guy steps forward.

SHADY GUY

(menacingly)  
Count it?

EXT. ALLEYWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Luke and Shady Guy are on the floor, counting.

LUKE

Yup that's a hundred thousand  
dollars.

SHADY GUY

Alright, where's he at?

LUKE

Uhhhh.

He looks over to Tommy, discreetly. Just at that moment--

POLICE (O.S.)

PUT YOUR HANDS UP.

INT/EXT. STUDIO/STUDIO PARKING LOT - LATER

Studio chaos swarms as a man in a headset, holding an iPad, stalks through the holding area of a soundstage. This is Freddy (38, fuming). The camera struggles to follow as he reaches Luke and Tommy, walking up with coffees in hand.

FREDDY

What the hell? Two and a half  
hours?!

LUKE

Fredman you will *not* believe it.  
It's actually a crazy story, lemme  
show you. Wait, Tommy pull up the  
footage.

Freddy swipes the coffees out of Luke's hands.

FREDDY

How many times do I have to tell  
you? I'm not watching one of your  
student films. Linus --

LUKE

Luke.

FREDDY

No, Linus.

Freddy looks at Linus, who's holding the camera.

FREDDY (CONT'D)

Linus, our B.T.S. guy, is gonna  
make the next run. Cause you're  
fired.

LUKE

FIRED?! Me?! You're firing me? You  
can't fire me, I-

Freddy, answering to his headset, simply walks away with the  
coffees. Luke, now in slo-mo, is dumbfounded, and abandoned  
in the middle of the sound stage.

LUKE (V.O.)

I saved a man's life today. But I  
killed my career.

FREDDY (O.S.)

(muffled)

Jesus Christ it's lukewarm now.

Walking off into the sunset, Luke emerges from the soundstage  
doors.

LUKE (V.O.)

That's what this business is all  
about, though. Sacrifice. So just  
you wait cause one day --

INT. LUKE'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Luke in his car, talks to the camera Tommy holds. Someone taps on the window. He rolls it down, revealing BECKY (35, Blonde, pissed).

BECKY

Can I get my straw?

Luke looks at Tommy and sighs. There's no straws.

CUT TO BLACK.

**THE END**